CALIFORNIA **NATURIST**
WINTER 1987 ISSUE

Editorial

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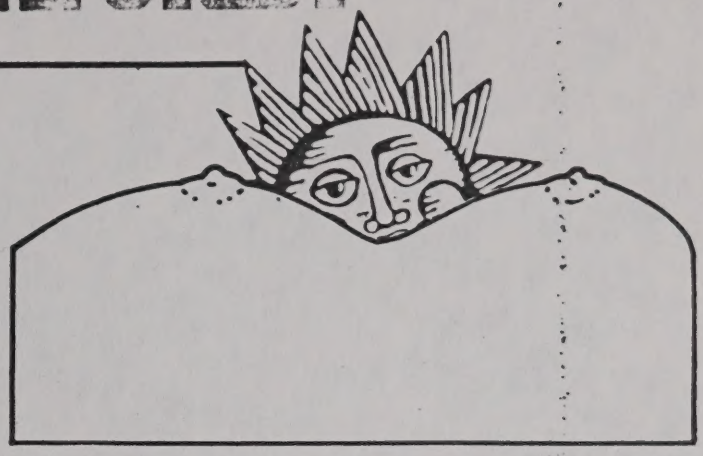


The seven courageous women who bared their chests in Rochester to challenge the local version of discriminatory anti-nudity legislation (see "Clippings in the Nude") won a limited victory of potential value to naturists; however, they came away understandably disappointed as feminists. What they wanted most was to establish equal rights as citizens under the 14th Amendment to take off their shirts on a hot day or to sunbathe without a top, as they could comfortably do at many foreign beaches...and as any man may do anywhere in this country.

Their attorneys were persuasive only in arguing their freedom of expression rights under the 1st Amendment...a right not as much in doubt. The male District Attorney will probably not appeal that narrow interpretation, despite his disapproval, for fear of losing at a more precedent-setting appellate level.

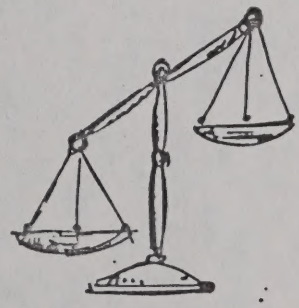
Left to wonder is when America's male-defined culture will finally get over its infantile breast fetish and cease its hypocritical exploitation of those forbidden female fatty-tissue totems without regard to the individual human beings whose torsos they grow upon. It is profoundly absurd and patently unfair that a woman may legally bare her breasts in performance for the profit and curiosity of repressed men but could be jailed for uncovering those same protuberances for her own purposes...be they pleasure, freedom or nourishment of her off-spring.

When will enough women cease allowing men to intimidate them into defensively hiding their secondary sexual characteristics (which really aren't all that different from men's) for fear of arousing uncontrollable male lust? What if women maintained that facial hair turned them on? Should men who refuse to shave be required to wear veils?

The message from Rochester seems clear, regardless of how individual women may personally feel about breast exposure. You'll never have real equality under the law until you cease letting chauvinistic men persuade you of their peculiar logic: i.e., arguing your "protection" from their unbridled adolescent reactions to gender characteristics as the basis for social or legal discrimination. It's a total "jive", as any male who's visited a naturist environment could testify. Justifying rape on the basis of provocative dress is only a variation of that same discredited theme.

If you truly wish to be treated as legal equals to men, it may be futile to hope for a fair interpretation under existing law. Gather whatever sensitized male allies you can and organize another, better, sustained effort to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. It alone might be phrased simply enough for even the densest of male jurists to comprehend.

Glyn Stout



EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

EQUALITY OF RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW
SHALL NOT BE DENIED OR ABRIDGED
BY THE UNITED STATES OR ANY STATE
ON ACCOUNT OF SEX.

Information:
Give Us Liberty Committee
P.O. Box 132, Oshkosh, WI 54902
Please enclose stamped, self addressed long envelope